United Nations S/2010/666

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 21 December 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to refer to the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, dated 21 September 2004 (S/2004/764) and 1 October 2004 (S/2004/765), concerning the security arrangements for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

As indicated in the exchange of letters, in addition to the protection then provided by the multinational force in Iraq, the Council welcomed the proposed arrangements for an integrated United Nations security structure consisting of four elements, namely, international security staff, protection coordination officers, personal security details and guard units. With regard to the fourth element, the Security Council authorized the deployment of three formed units, each consisting of up to 160 armed civilian police, paramilitary or military personnel (480 in total), to be provided as contingents from Members States and to form part of UNAMI, with the specific responsibility of controlling access to and conducting patrols within UNAMI premises.

I would like to thank the Security Council for its continued support for the integrated security structure in Iraq, which has been vital for the United Nations presence in the country since 2004. While noting the significant changes that have taken place in Iraq since that time, including a general improvement of the security situation and the progressive transfer of responsibilities from the multinational force (now the United States forces in Iraq) to the Iraqi security forces, Iraq remains a challenging operating environment. During the next year and with the planned United States forces drawdown, UNAMI will increasingly be required to rely upon the integrated United Nations security structure and the Iraqi security forces.

In view of the changing circumstances in Iraq, I intend to implement several important adjustments to the integrated United Nations security structure in its original configuration from 2004:

(a) The coordination mechanism between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq will include police advisers and/or liaison officers;

(b) In addition to controlling access to and conducting patrols within UNAMI premises, the guard force will provide mobile and close protection security for United Nations personnel outside United Nations premises. The United Nations has informed the Government of Iraq of its intentions in this regard.

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I believe that increased security support from the Iraqi security forces, as well as the continuation of the integrated United Nations security structure, as described above, will be critical to ensure that United Nations personnel operating in Iraq have an adequate level of protection in the foreseeable future.

I should be grateful if you could confirm whether these adjustments to the integrated United Nations security structure are acceptable to the Security Council. It would then be my intention to take the necessary steps to reconfigure the integrated United Nations security structure and approach Member States for contributions accordingly.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon